Illegal Blood Trade

3701. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many private and public blood banks are involved in illegal blood trade;

(b) if so, the number of blood banks identified and details of those proceeded against by Government authorities; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop illegal trading of blood in blood banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There have been isolated incidences of illegal blood trade like operation of unlicensed blood banks and collection of blood from paid donors by private blood banks. There has been no instance of Government Blood Banks indulging in illegal blood trade.

(b) Recently two blood banks at Meerut involved in illegal trade of blood were ordered to stop collection of blood from 14* June, 2001 under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules and are being prosecuted. Licenses of 5 blood banks in Andhra Pradesh were also withdrawn for not conforming to the norms of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

(c) Professional Donation of blood has been banned in the country since 1st January, 1998. For generating enough blood through voluntary blood donation programme, the Government of India have taken a number of steps such as media campaign through TV, AIR and newspapers, developing IEC material for one-to-one communication, observation of National Voluntary Blood Donation day on 1 st October every year, encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaign to educate masses to support voluntary blood donation. Strict vigilance is being maintained by Drugs Controllers of all States to ensure that no paid donation takes place and no unlicensed blood banks operate.

PHCsinU.P.

3702. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres functioning in the rural areas of U.P.;